

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

Dear Member O' Congress/FCC Chairman (who I deeply appreciate for your efforts in regard to HDTV--get them on the tuners too please,) and whoever this may go to...

Thanks for actually reading this,

As a long-time customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like myself.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer customers a substantial number of local and HDTV channels via satellite in my market area. The current wave of protectionist effort among some congress-folks smacks of a saving the buggy whip-like movement.

I currently have broadband access to the Internet, but the combination of EchoStar and HUGHES will result in increased competition in the broadband market by providing an affordable high-speed Internet service nationwide via satellite (though those of us who play online games won't like the ping ;-).

I appreciate your consideration of my request that you not smack this one down... And I am,

Rick Raymo

Sincerely,

Rick Raymo  
856 Sonora Road  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626